

for the adoption of the committee amendments.

**SPEAKER MARVEL:** All those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed vote no. Adopting the committee amendments. Record the vote.

**CLERK:** 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

**SPEAKER MARVEL:** The motion is carried. The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Nichol, what do we do with the bill?

**SENATOR NICHOL:** I will talk to the bill now briefly, sir. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, the provision for federal funding for child support enforcement under Title 4(d) of the U. S. Social Security Act commenced in 1976 at which time some of the state statutes were originally adopted and earlier versions of others were amended to reflect the new federal program. Last summer federal funding for activities of states and local governments in nonwelfare child support enforcement cases was made a permanent part of the Social Security Act. As a result of this federal action, Nebraska amended its state welfare regulations to eliminate application fees for the Title 4(d) program for nonwelfare recipients and now allows county attorneys to directly accept such applications. These changes provide substantially more federal funding to county attorneys and clerks of the district courts offices for carrying out state statutory provisions relating to the collection of child support. The changes proposed by LB 345 clarify the statutes and take into account recent changes in federal law regarding the enforcement of child support orders and the collection of back child support. The problems that the proposed legislation is designed to fix and correct are as follows: One, the only direct reference to nonwelfare Title 4(d) applications is contained in somewhat vague terms in Section 43-512.03 at the present time. The proposed changes better define the application process for nonwelfare cases. Secondly, statutory provisions regarding who can file an application for child support collection or paternity determinations are clarified. Three, a problem currently exists which deals with the collection of arrearages in court orders and assignments of child support rights. Although an Attorney General's Opinion does make it clear that notices of assignment of child support rights by the Department of Welfare to a Clerk of the District should be adequate to implement the assignment without a subsequent order of the court, a few judges still